



**MVP**  
**SERIES**  
LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEMS  
OWNERS MANUAL

Community Professional Loudspeakers  
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MVP121802 WML



**Community**  
PROFESSIONAL LOUDSPEAKERS

## CAUTIONS AND WARNINGS

1. Don't let the frenzy of setting up the system get in the way of common sense. If it takes just a bit longer to set up your system because you double-checked your connections, or the way you stacked, mounted, or suspended the speaker systems - so be it. Make it a habit - you won't regret it.
2. Don't stick your head up to the speaker to see if you can hear any background noise or hiss. That is just when someone else will decide to see if the system really can attain an output of 150 dB SPL at 6 inches (your ears)!
3. While sustained feedback can be irritating to a listener, it can spell death to high-frequency diaphragms.
4. If you mount the speaker enclosure on a stand or support, be sure it is sufficiently rigid to support the enclosure.
5. Know how to pick up heavy items (such as speaker enclosures). If you must lift something very heavy by yourself, use your legs and arms to do the lifting - not your back. Better still, get someone to help you.
6. Save your packaging. In the unlikely event that your product must be shipped to the Factory (or elsewhere) for service, it must be shipped in the original packaging to prevent shipping damage!

If you ship your product, be sure to include the following information:

1. Your complete name, daytime phone number, return street address and **return authorization number**.
2. The serial number of the product you are returning and retail sales receipt, if possible.
3. A complete description of the problem(s) you have been experiencing including a brief description of how the equipment is being used and with what type/size of amplifier.

Upon receipt, the Service Center will determine if the problem is covered under warranty. If covered under this warranty, the product will be repaired or replaced, at Community's option, and returned to you freight prepaid.

If the problem is not covered under this warranty, you will be notified of the problem with an estimate of the repair costs. For service outside the United States, contact your authorized Community Export Distributor.

This Community warranty is not extended by the length of time which you are deprived of the use of the product. Repairs and replacement parts provided under the terms of this warranty shall carry only the remaining portion of the warranty.

Community reserves the right to change the design of any product from time to time without notice and with no obligation to make corresponding changes in products previously manufactured. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, you may also have other rights that vary from state to state. No action to enforce this warranty shall be started later than ninety days after expiration of the warranty period.

**THIS STATEMENT OF WARRANTY SUPERSEDES ANY OTHERS FOR COMMUNITY PRODUCTS.**

# Owner's Manual

## Community's MVP™ Loudspeaker Systems

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## Welcome to the Community family!

*You've joined a group of people that have chosen exceptional Community loudspeaker systems and components for over 30 years. Thanks! We'll do our best to make sure you're satisfied!*

### THE NEW COMMUNITY MVP™ LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEMS

MVP™ Loudspeaker Systems are a series of systems for musicians and DJ's; designed by Musicians and DJ's. The models include the MVP25 12" 2-way full-range system, the MVP28 12" 2-way monitor system, the MVP35 15" 2-way full-range system and MVP38 15" 2-way monitor system, the heavy-duty MVP36 extended-range 2-way loudspeaker system, the MVP37 dual 15" 2-way full-range system and the MVP40 single 18" subwoofer.

MVP™ systems are the first loudspeakers to include Community's patent pending Thermal-Link™ HF thermal protection technology. See page six for more info! The MVP40 18" subwoofer has a built-in 150 Hz high pass filter, that allows you to power both a full-range MVP™ system and the MVP40 subwoofer with a single amplifier channel. Detailed information on hooking up your MVP system is given elsewhere in this manual.

### INSPECT THE PACKING MATERIALS AND THE SPEAKER

**ENCLOSURE** Community employs excellent materials, components and assembly techniques to help ensure the best quality product possible. The packaging and shipping materials used should assure that the unit arrives in factory-fresh condition. It is possible, however, that something could happen to the system on its journey from the factory to you. Take a little time to carefully inspect the loudspeaker system. Look for damage to the carton (rips, tears, punctures, crushed corners, etc.) and to the loudspeaker itself. If you notice a problem, immediately contact the dealer where you

This warranty is void if the serial number has been defaced, altered or removed. Products covered by this warranty will be repaired or replaced at the option of Community, without charge for materials or labor, provided all the terms of this warranty have been met.

**Consequential and Incidental Damages:** Community is not liable for any consequential or incidental damages including, without limitation, injury to persons, property or loss of use. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitations of consequential or incidental damages, so the above limitations and exclusions may not apply to you.

**Obtaining Warranty Service:** Warranty service may be handled by the factory, factory-authorized Field Service Stations, or Export Distributors.

To obtain factory or field warranty service for products purchased in the United States, return the product for inspection to the address below, freight prepaid, in the original packaging. If the original packaging is not available, call or write Community factory service to obtain proper packaging materials or hand carry the product to your nearest Field Service Station.

Factory Service Center  
Community Warranty Service  
333 East 5th Street  
Chester, PA 19013-4511

Call (610) 876-3400 for the name of your nearest Authorized Field Service center. For factory service, please call (610) 876-3400 for a Return Authorization (R/A) number before shipping.

## **TRANSFERABLE LIMITED 5 YEAR WARRANTY**

Community products are guaranteed to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a specified period as noted, by product group, below:

**MVP™** Loudspeaker Systems are covered by this warranty for a period of five years. The warranty period is determined by one of the following two methods, whichever is longer:

1. Starting from the date of retail purchase, as noted on the sales receipt from an authorized Community Dealer, or
2. Starting from the date of manufacture, which is coded in the serial number, if the sales receipt is not available. This warranty applies to the product; therefore, the remainder of the warranty period will be automatically transferred to any subsequent owner.

This warranty applies only to failure of Community products caused by defects in materials and workmanship during the stated warranty period. It does not apply to products that have been subjected to abuse, accident, modification, improper handling or installation, or repairs made without factory authorization or by anyone other than authorized Community Field Service Stations.

purchased the products. If you feel the situation cannot be handled by the dealer, please call Community at (610) 876-3400 or contact your country's Community Distributor.

## **RETURN SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

The most common reason for returning a product to the factory is that repair is required. The very first step should be to contact the dealer where the unit was purchased. With the support of the dealer you should be able to determine the cause of the problem and obtain the proper replacement or repair part so that a return shipment is not necessary. If this is not possible, contacting your nearest Field Service Station or the Distributor for your country should be your next choice.

## **WIRING UP YOUR SPEAKERS TO YOUR AMPLIFIER**

You need to use proper cable and good quality connectors for speaker wiring. Using guitar cords or zip cord (used for table lamps) may degrade the performance of your loudspeakers. If your speaker cables will be less than 25' long, 16-gauge (1.5 mm) stranded twisted-pair cable will be adequate. If you need longer cables, you should use 14- or 12-gauge (2.5 mm or 4 mm) stranded cable. Rubber-jacketed cable is an excellent choice if you wish to have reliable performance, as this type of cable will survive hard use and remain flexible even if exposed to cold. If it is likely that people will walk on it or that heavy objects will be rolled over the cables you may wish to use cable with a vinyl (PVC) jacket. If you decide to go with the rubber-jacketed cable, ask your supplier for type S, SO, or SJ cable, all of which will be suitable.

The loudspeaker connection panel is supplied with two 1/4" phone jacks and two locking connectors all wired in parallel. Keep in mind that the contact surface of the tip of a phone plug is very small and if the jack or plug gets dirty or the plug is accidentally kicked or hit, the connection may become intermittent.



*Typical MVP™ Series Input Panel*



*2-Conductor 1/4" Phone Plug*

It's very important to wire your phone jack connectors exactly the same at each end of the cable. This is necessary to maintain proper polarity. All quality cables have either color-coded insulation or a very clear way of marking the wires that make up the cable. If the insulation is not color-coded, there may be a rib molded into the side of the jacket material. If the cables are wired incorrectly, there will be significantly less low-frequency output from your system.

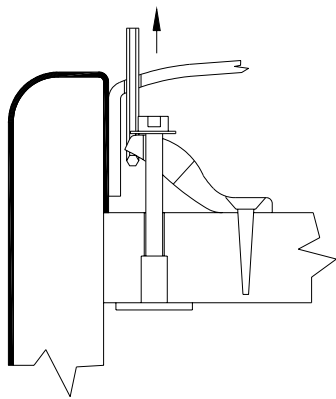
## **LOUD SOUND - PLEASE BE CAREFUL!**

Community loudspeakers are capable of generating high sound pressure levels. Long exposure to sustained loud sound may cause hearing impairment. In the U.S. there are specific Federal noise exposure guidelines set down by OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration). Certain local sound level restrictions may also apply. If you will be exposed to excessive sound levels when operating your speakers, you should use proper hearing protection devices. Use special care when you or others are very close to the speaker systems, such as during setup or if someone has their ears right up to the speaker.

## **IF THERE'S A PROBLEM**

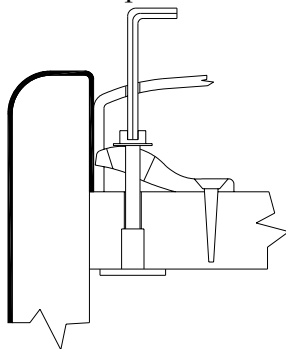
Both Community and your dealer want to be sure you are happy with your new loudspeaker systems. If there seems to be a problem of any type with the loudspeakers, please contact the dealer where you purchased these products. If you are unable to discover the cause of a problem or need the name of your nearest Field Service Station or Distributor, please call Community and discuss the situation with the Service Department. If you live in the United States and it becomes necessary to ship a product back to Community, do not just pack it up and send it.

***ALL RETURN SHIPMENTS MUST HAVE A RETURN  
AUTHORIZATION NUMBER OBTAINED FROM THE  
COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT!***



USING KEY TO LIFT  
END OF GRILLE CLAMP  
IF NECESSARY TO SEAT  
GRILLE AGAINST FACE

Once one side of the grille is located, the other side of the grille can be forced into place. This requires a bit of pressure because the grille must be forced back into its curved contour. When both edges of the grille are seated against the face, the socket head screws of the clamps can be re-tightened. If they were loosened five full turns to remove the grille, then five full turns will be sufficient to re-clamp the grille. The clamps should not be over-tightened; they should only be tightened sufficiently to engage and secure the grille. This can be checked by hooking the short arm of the key through the grille near the clamp and pulling upward. Once the screw is tightened to the point that the grille does not move when it is pulled up with the key, the clamp is sufficiently tightened.



GRILLE-CLAMP  
IN TIGHTENED POSITION

## WHAT AMPLIFIER SHOULD YOU USE?

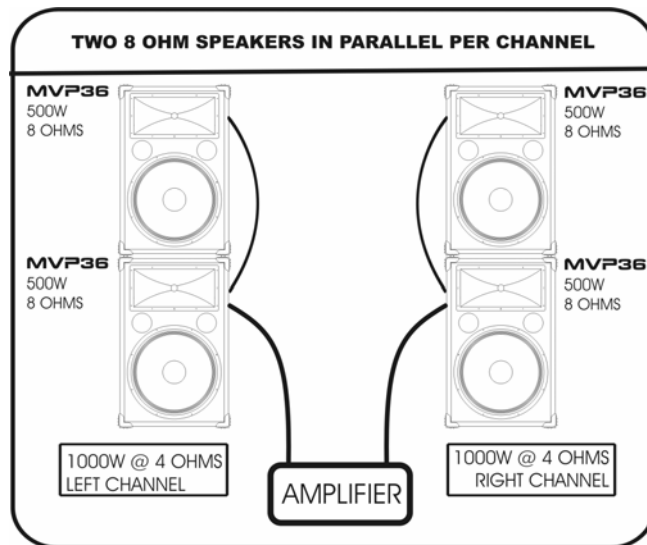
There are several things you should keep in mind when selecting an amplifier. First, you need an amplifier with enough output power. Even if you are not planning to run your system very loud, an amplifier needs to have enough power so that the dynamics of speech and music will not cause "clipping." An amplifier that is pushed beyond its output power capability will clip signals. Not only does this sound bad, but the effect on a low frequency speaker or mid or high-frequency driver is similar to hitting the cone or diaphragm with a hammer. Because of this, **too small an amplifier can be more damaging to speakers than one that seemingly has too much power.** Peaks in speech or music signals can easily exceed the average power levels by a factor of ten. If your amplifier is not big enough, these peaks become clipped and distorted.

## So how many watts can this baby handle?

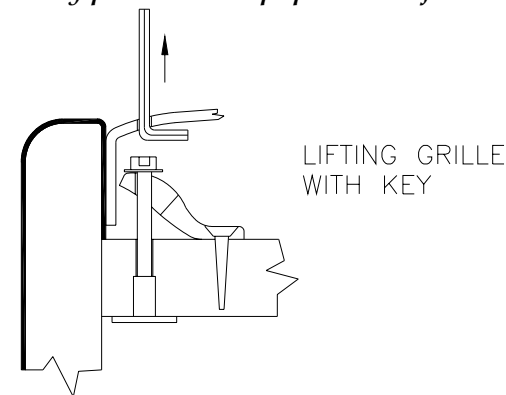
You've heard this question a thousand times. The answer is "it depends on the thermal/mechanical limits of the drivers and crossover components." It also depends on the input signal, its peak/average ratio, rise times, and spectral (frequency) content. Actually the question is not what is the power handling, but what is the OPTIMUM power to use? For Community loudspeakers the best answer lies in the PROGRAM power rating. This is the size amplifier you should use. If you can't find an amplifier with that exact rating, multiply the PROGRAM power rating by .80 and again by 1.25 to find the recommended power range. For example, the range for a 500W PROGRAM power rating is from 400W (.80 X 500) to 625W (1.25 X 500). Anything larger is potentially excessive. Anything smaller can cause damage. The amplifier will clip before activating the Thermal-Link™ thermal protection circuits. Our RMS rating represents the thermal power limit for the loudspeaker. It is also a standard number for comparing to other products. The impedance or speaker load the amplifier "sees" is very

important. If the amplifier is not rated for the impedance load, the internal protection circuitry of the amplifier may prevent full-power output. Additionally, if the amplifier is not of high enough quality or does not have good internal protection against over-load, the amplifier may be damaged - or the speakers connected to the amplifier may be damaged.

When you connect two speakers together so that both speakers work off one amplifier channel, you are connecting them in parallel. Two speakers connected in parallel do not have the same impedance as one speaker. Knowing the combined impedance is very important when selecting an amplifier. You need to select an amplifier that will operate at the combined impedance and produce enough power for both speakers. Check to make sure the amplifier you wish to use will match this requirement. To figure out how much power you need, just add the program power of the two speakers. The drawing shows the combined impedance for two 8 ohm speakers connected in parallel and their combined power requirements.



When the socket head screws of all four grille clamps have been loosened, the grille may be removed. Hook the short arm of the key through a grille perforation near a corner and pull that corner of the grille up until the edge of the grille just clears the edge of the cabinet. Repeat this with the other corner on the same side of the grille. Once one side of the grille is free, the grille will spring back to its natural flat shape. Use the key to lift the other edge of the grille and remove the grille from the cabinet. **Note: Be very careful when handling the grille near the cone of the woofer. A corner of the grille can very easily puncture the paper cone of the woofer.**



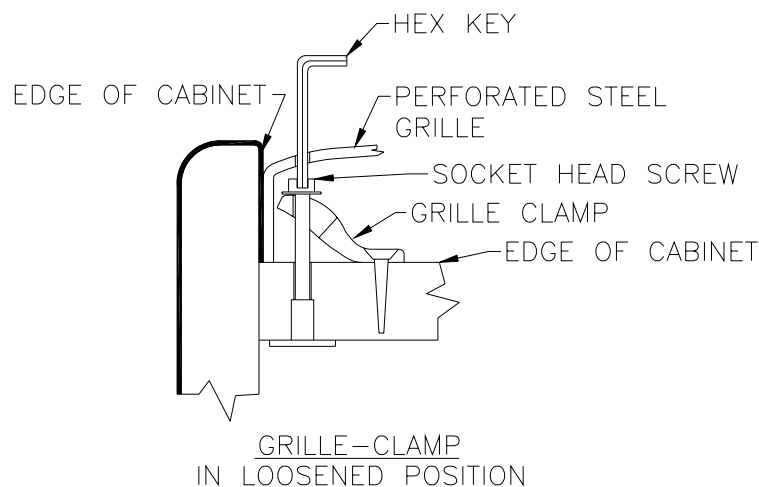
## GRILLE INSTALLATION

The socket head screws in the four grille clamps should still be in their loosened condition, as they were left when the grille was removed. Pull upward on the end of each grille clamp to be sure it has returned to its natural unclamped position. Slide one side of the grille down between the clamps and the side of the cabinet until the edge of the grille rests on the face of the cabinet. **Note: Occasionally one of the clamps will engage the edge of the grille and prevent it from seating properly on the face. If this occurs, insert the short arm of the key through the grille about 3/4" (19 mm) to one side of the clamp. Hook the short arm of the key under the end of the clamp and pull it up. This will disengage the clamp from the grille and allow the grille to be pushed down until it is seated on the face. (see drawing, next page)**

## GRILLE REMOVAL

The steel grilles on the MVP full-range systems are mounted with four molded nylon grille clamps. These clamps are located on the face of the cabinet, two just below the lower edge of the high frequency horn, and two about 3" (about 8 cm) above the bottom edge of the face. The clamps are operated by a socket head machine screw that draws the upper portion of the clamp down toward the face. As the clamp is drawn down its outer surface engages the grille, forcing the grille down against the face and securely clamping the grille against the edge of the cabinet.

Grille removal is easiest with the cabinet facing upward. To remove the grille use the 1/8" (3mm) ball end hex key that was included in the package with this manual. Insert the long arm of the key through the grille perforation nearest to the socket head screw of the grille clamp. Engage the key into the screw head and loosen the screw five full turns. Repeat this procedure with the remaining three grille clamps.



## SIGNAL PRESENCE INDICATOR

There is a green light located on the front of the high frequency horn that indicates that the signal is reaching the speaker cabinet.

## THERMAL-LINK™ HIGH FREQUENCY DRIVER PROTECTION:

All of the MVP™ full-range systems (MVP25, 28, 35, 36, 37 and 38) employ a unique thermally compensated protection system for the high frequency compression driver. The Thermal-Link™ protection system continuously monitors the temperature of the high frequency driver and adjusts the threshold of protection mechanism to compensate for the driver's temperature. Normally, when a driver is operated at high power levels its temperature increases. The longer it is operated at high power the hotter it becomes. When a driver becomes hot, its power capacity is decreased, and the threshold of the protection circuit needs to be lowered to prevent driver damage.

The Thermal-Link™ protection system does this automatically, enabling the speaker system to operate at its maximum output capacity with little risk of damage to the high frequency compression driver. When the protection threshold of the Thermal-Link™ system is reached, the power to the high frequency driver is reduced by 6 dB. **The Thermal Link protection circuit does not protect the woofer and does not affect the woofer output when activated.**

The Thermal-Link™ protection is solid-state and auto-resetting. There are no mechanical relay contacts or light bulbs that can burn out. When the power level to the high frequency driver is reduced to a safe level, the Thermal-Link™ system will automatically reset itself and restore full power to the driver. The Thermal-Link™ protection system is the subject of a current US patent application.

## USING MVP40 SUBWOOFER SYSTEMS

While all Community full-range speaker systems have remarkable bass output, the MVP40 subwoofer has a lot more. A very special feature of the MVP40 is that it has a built-in crossover with a high-pass output. This means that you may use one channel of your power amplifier to power both the MVP40 and a full-range speaker, while presenting a reasonable load on your amplifier. The amplifier only sees the subwoofer's crossover load, which is 8 ohms for the MVP40 subwoofer. Without the built-in crossover, the

combined impedance of full-range and subwoofer speakers in parallel would be much lower. Many amplifiers are capable of powering very low-impedance loads, but some cannot. This feature neatly solves that problem. Also, the high-pass crossover output removes very low bass frequencies from the signal going to the full-range speaker. This prevents excessive low-frequency energy getting into the full-range speaker, causing possible damage.

## STACKING OR INSTALLING LOUDSPEAKER ENCLOSURES

Common sense is a good guide. If you stack speakers, be sure they are on a stable surface. If there is any danger of the speakers being knocked over when stacked, don't stack them! You need to get the speakers up high enough so that the sound doesn't "blow away" the people nearest to the speakers, but piling speakers on top of a small pedestal table is asking for trouble.

Several models of the MVP™ speakers have a socket for use with tripod stands. Be sure to position them so that no one can trip over the stand or knock over the loudspeaker.

Community MVP25, MVP35, MVP36 and MVP37 loudspeaker enclosures are provided with 5/16"-18 thread "T-Nuts" (captive threaded inserts) in the sides of the enclosures for hanging or mounting. The accessory "STRAPKIT" provides three steel straps that attach to these inserts for connecting rigging to the enclosure. The smaller models may be mounted from walls or ceilings by using the accessory WB-1.

**WARNING:** For your protection, under no circumstances should any loudspeaker be mounted or suspended in a public place unless the mounting method has been approved and certified by a registered Professional Engineer. Do not suspend from handles.

